

The 30th Kansai High School Model United Nations

June 1st – August 30th, 2020

Kyoto International Conference Center

organized by

Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School

The 30th annual Kansai High School Model United Nations was held from June 1st – August 30th in a new online format due to the continuing situation with COVID-19, with over 250 students from nine high schools participating, deliberating on the agenda topic of The Impact of Waste. The students represented 54 countries in each Commission A and Commission B, and leadership for the conference was provided by Kyoto Gaidai Nishi High School students and teachers.

The KHSMUN was originally planned to be held at the Kyoto International Conference Center from June 24th – 27th but due to the ongoing need to cancel or hold events online, this year's conference evolved to a 3-month online format. Teachers worked to adapt the Model United Nations rules and procedures to a new style which would allow students to fully participate and debates the issues of Plastic Waste and Food Waste using online tools and platforms.

Using Google's G-suite applications and Microsoft's Flipgrid video site, student delegates were able to present recorded speeches, exchange opinions, and write draft resolutions regarding the agenda topics. Student delegates participated remotely either from their own homes, or from their respected schools, in trying to reach a consensus on solutions for the problems associated with the waste of plastics and food.

Two online video conferences (June 27th & August 30th) were held using the Google Meet platform for students to join a live General Assembly session to introduce draft resolutions, listen to speeches, discuss amendments, and ultimately vote on two resolutions for both Commission A and Commission B. While confronted with the challenge of participating in an all-English online conference using modified United Nations rules and procedures, the students actively participated, completing their tasks. As a result, all 4 draft resolutions passed with unanimous support.

The Kansai High School Organizing Committee would like to thank Kyoto University of Foreign Studies for providing support, advice, and iPads for the online KHSMUN. The committee would also like to thank Kenji Takuya from Fuji Xerox, Kyoto for providing temporary wi-fi support and equipment during the two online video conferences.

The 30th Kansai High School Model United Nations faced some unusual challenges due to the current situation with COVID-19, yet the organizing committee, teachers, staff, and most importantly, the students, all rose to the occasion in order to provide an educational opportunity for over 250 students that challenged them to use not only their knowledge of global issues and international diplomacy, but also their digital skills in learning different ways to communicate and solve problems during uncertain times.

The 2020 Kansai High School Model United Nations report

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